

CP 1771

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Leonard D. Bowersox
Name of Person signing Certificate Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BURNS et al.

Serial No.: 09/228,954

Filed: January 12, 1999

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) Group Art Unit: 1771
)

) Examiner: Not Assigned

For: A SURFACE COVERING BACKING CONTAINING POLYMERIC MICROSPHERES
AND PROCESSES OF MAKING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of a first official action on the merits. The relevance of the non-English documents is set forth in the accompanying PCT Search Report from the counterpart application.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exist and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the



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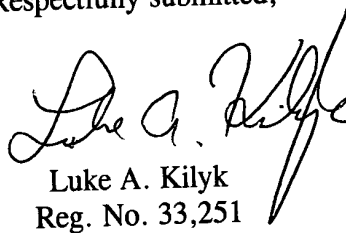
Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/228,954

relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/32 Documents